

Feel Slighted By Commissioners

Medical Society Opposes More Coroner Authority

A local bill drafted by Sen. Ollie Harris of Kings Mountain and presented to the county commissioners Monday would give the county coroner expanded authority. If approved by the legislature, the bill would give Cleveland County's coroner the power to order autopsies, remove a body from a scene and to make and sign medical certificates of death. The county's law enforcement agencies favor the bill, but the county medical society is opposed to its passage. Bennett Masters of Kings Mountain, now serving as county coroner, presented the bill to the

commissioners for review at Monday's meeting. He told the board there are flaws in the local medical examiner system. He said the law requires the coroner be notified of all cases investigated by a medical examiner, "but in about 90 percent of these cases I am not notified." Monday night the medical society met to discuss the proposed bill and passed a resolution "voicing opposition to the action" of the county commissioners "on enhancing the authority" of the coroner "without an effort to secure the views of the medical community on a medically related matter."

Dr. Avery McMurry, a spokesman for the society, said the local medical group is in favor of improving the medical examiner system all over the state and stated that steps have already been taken to see the improvements made.

In his comments Monday morning to the commissioners, Coroner Masters said there had been two medical examiners in the Kings Mountain area when the system was initiated, but that now there are no ME's in the area. He also said it is difficult getting a medical examiner from Shelby to the Kings Mountain area.

Masters contends that the medical examiner has the authority to order removal of a body from a scene and if this is done without the examiner having been to the scene there is the chance of possible loss of evidence.

Masters also feels there is additional cost to the county under the medical examiner system; cost which could be eliminated if the coroner's authority was expanded.

Dr. McMurry said the medical community feels there is a problem in communications in these matters and that there is a great deal of misunderstanding about how the ME system functions.

He said that Dr. Page Hudson, the state medical examiner, and an assistant will come to Shelby on March 8 for a 7 p. m. meeting with rescue squad representatives and law enforcement agencies to "reorient agencies on the medical examiner system and how it operates."

Dr. McMurry also said that Dr. Sam Robinson has been mentioned by the medical society as a possible medical examiner for the Kings Mountain area. He said the matter has not yet come to a deciding vote.

Sheriff Haywood Allen said Tuesday he favors the bill and that personally he feels the coroner's powers should be increased. He cited a close working relationship between investigating officers and the coroner in the past.

Kings Mountain Police Chief Earl Lloyd said that authority in these matters, such as outlined in the bill, have traditionally rested with the coroner.

The commissioners approved Monday sending a letter of support to Raleigh to Sen. Harris for the introduction of the bill. Tuesday, Commission Chairman Jack Palmer said the letter has not been sent as yet and indicated it may be held up.

The medical society was not happy with the commission's decision to support the local bill without having discussed its provisions with the county medical group.



SURVEY TEAM — Debbie Kiser, left, and Helen Sharp, right, college students, make up a city survey team on Kings Mountain housing who are calling on city residents to determine type of housing in the area in conjunction with the city's Community Development Block Grant Program.

Photo By Lib Stewart

For CD Program

Students Conduct Housing Survey

A housing survey is currently underway in Kings Mountain in conjunction with the city's Community Development block grant program and two college students, Debbie Kiser and Helen Sharp, will be calling at your door to obtain information vitally needed.

Property owners' names will not be recorded in the survey, says Al Moretz, but accurate information on type of housing, whether you rent or buy, how large are your families, income range, how many bathrooms, etc. and etc. are needed for the study.

The young surveyors are both

students at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and are residents of Gastonia.

To verify they are employed by the city to conduct the survey, the young women will carry identification cards, said Moretz.

They will be working in the area for approximately three weeks, according to Moretz, who said that citizens are asked to cooperate with the surveyors by answering accurately the questions needed for the CD block grant reports.

"We do appreciate all your cooperation in this effort," said Moretz.

World Day Of Prayer Is March 4

World Day of Prayer is Fri., March 4th, and Christians all over the world will pause during the day to offer prayer.

At First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Gary Bryant, pastor, said the church will be open from 12 noon until 5 p. m. for worshippers to enter the sanctuary and meditate.

Most Kings Mountain churches are arranging similar observances. Offering plates will be on the altar and any gifts from worshippers will be used by the Kings Mountain Ministerial Association Helping Hand Fund to help area needy.

Singers Will Present Songs, Drama Sunday

The Montreat-Anderson Singers will present a program of songs and drama Sunday night at 7 p. m. at First Presbyterian Church Recreation Building.

The program, to which the public is invited, is sponsored by youth of the church.

"This college youth group is in much demand for programs of song and drama," said Pastor Gary Bryant, "and we invite the public, especially young people of the area, to join in this special program."

To Sponsor Chicken Supper

Bethlehem Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a barbecued chicken supper Saturday, from 5 until 8 p. m. at the Department headquarters in Bethlehem Community.

The menu will include barbecued chicken, slaw, rolls, tea or coffee, and homemade cake.

All proceeds will be used to purchase a new light and utility truck for the department.

Governor's Order Sent To Police To Enforce

The Kings Mountain Police Department has received guidelines for enforcing Gov. Jim Hunt's order on heating limitations for retail operations.

The guidelines were submitted by Jack Cozort, legal counsel to Governor Hunt.

Issued February 14, the governor's order states that retail operations restrict the use of energy resources for heating facilities to 4 hours per week. Retail operations are defined as having for sale goods and services, recreation or entertainment.

The order further stipulates that facilities are not to be heated at more than 62 degrees during the 48 hours of operation nor more than 55 degrees during non-operational hours.

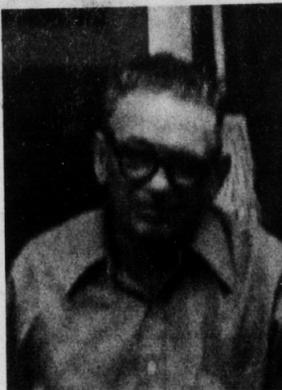
Chief Earl Lloyd said retail operations are supposed to post for the public a schedule of operational hours.

"Violations of the governor's order is a misdemeanor," Chief Lloyd said. "Enforcement of the order is handled by the attorney general, the legislative committee on energy crisis management and the energy policy council."

Local law enforcement officers are directed to conduct spot checks on retail establishments. Officers will check whether or not the hours

of heating are posted at a conspicuous place, whether the retail establishment is following the heating schedule and whether or not thermostats are set at the ordered levels.

Chief Lloyd said, "If our officers determine a violation of the order has occurred they will get as many details as possible as to the owner and manager of the operation, the kind of business involved, the extent of the violation and the owner or manager's willingness to comply with the governor's order."



HAL HICKS

Services Today For Hal Hicks

Hal Durham Hicks, 58, Acting Superintendent of the Kings Mountain Public Works Department, died suddenly Tuesday morning at 11:15 a. m. in Charlotte Memorial Hospital.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday afternoon at 3 p. m. from Central Methodist Church, of which he was member, by his pastor, Rev. Robert Boggan. Interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The body will remain at Harris Funeral Home until the hour of service.

He became Acting Superintendent of the city public works department about six months ago, succeeding Black Leonard. He had been employed by the City of Kings Mountain for four years.

He was son of Mrs. Lora Walker Hicks Stinson of Shelby and the late Charles Durham Hicks. He was a native of Cleveland County.

Surviving, in addition to his mother, are his wife, Mrs. Thelma McDaniel Hicks; one daughter, Mrs. Tom Vance of Charlotte; two sisters, Mrs. Al Brickley of Charlotte and Mrs. Colon Wright of Shelby; and one grandchild.

The Governor's Order also instructs local law enforcement officers to:

"Notify Jack Cozort, Legal Counsel to Governor Hunt, that a possible violation has been found. . . It is essential that the officer who has determined a violation has occurred notify Mr. Cozort prior to making an arrest or seeking injunctive relief. The Governor's office will assist the local officer to determine the proper course to follow after the violation is found."

Governor Hunt issued the order following an attempt to extract voluntary cutbacks from retail business across the state during the energy crisis. The voluntary plan did not work as well as the governor has expected, so he invoked his powers under the State Statutes.

Chief Lloyd said his department expects to discuss procedure of the Governor's Order this week before the actual spot checks of retail businesses takes place.

Grover Council Considers Town Recreation Planning

GROVER — A handful of residents at Monday's council meeting here favored a recreation program for the town, but questioned the validity of paying for a study to show what is now available in recreation.

The town is eligible for a 60 percent federal and state grant to pay for a "comprehensive recreation study" and a "community profile," according to community assistance

planners from the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources.

The planners recommended the town council approve both the study and the profile. The deadline for applying for the grant this year is February 28. Although no council action was taken Monday night, another public hearing on the matter may be called this week.

The study would cost \$4,500 and the profile, \$5,000 if done separately. Done together the cost would be \$8,000. The cost to the town would be \$3,520 and the grant, \$5,280.

The study, as outlined, would pinpoint existing recreation programs, include site proposals, potential for recreational development and methods for developing that potential.

The community profile would touch other areas, the strengths and weaknesses of the community and methods for promoting the town's assets. Also the housing situation, land use, expansion possibilities and zoning.

There was some discussion as to whether the town's acceptance of the profile study would have a bearing on the community receiving favorable recreation from the grants program.

Song Service

Penley's Chapel Church on Cherryville Rd. will sponsor a song service on Sunday night, Feb. 27th, featuring The Hampton Quartet of Blacksburg, S. C.

Services will begin at 7 p. m. and the interested community is invited to attend, said Rev. W. L. Huffstetter, pastor.

Shirley Austin Selected Sanford Award Finalist

Mrs. Darrell Austin, Kings Mountain Elementary Schools



SHIRLEY AUSTIN

Music Supervisor, has been notified that she is a finalist in the Terry Sanford Award competition.

She is among 15 state finalists chosen for their creativity in teaching or administration from nominations by NCAE local units.

The winner will receive a plaque and cash award at an Awards Dinner during the NCAE convention in Asheville March 21-April 2.

Judges, appointed by the Learning Institute of North Carolina, will select the state winner or winners.

The Terry Sanford Award was established in 1965, honoring Governor Sanford for his efforts to provide quality education in North Carolina. It has been awarded annually since that time, the funds earned by the contributions given by friends and admirers at the close of the Sanford administration.

Band Trip TV Tickets Sale Ends

Tomorrow is the deadline on tickets on a portable color TV, sponsored by the committee to send the senior high band to Disney World.

The tickets are going for a \$1 donation to the band trip. All ticket stubs are to be turned in at Home Savings and Loan Association by Friday's close of business.

The drawing for the TV set will be held Mon., Feb. 28 at 4 p. m. at Home Savings and Loan. Donald Deal, director of the Kings Mountain Senior High band will draw the winning ticket. Ticket holders do not have to be present to win.

Between now and Friday afternoon, tickets can still be purchased at First Citizens Bank and Trust, First Union National Bank, Kings Mountain Savings and Loan and Home Savings and Loan.

Bob Maner, chairman of the committee contacting small business in the city, said businessmen contacted for donations have been "most generous."

Carl DeVane and Mrs. Charles Mauney are now contacting local industry for donations toward the band trip.

The band will lead the Disney World parade on April 18 in Orlando, Fla. The band was selected following selection by Disney World officials who judged tapes submitted.